

FIX

Skinner calls him the *stinking ferret*; but he is much larger, at least as some provinces distinguish them, in which the polecat is termed a *stinking ferret* a float.

'Tis such another *stinking ferret*! marry, a perfume'd one!

What do you mean by this haunting of me? *Shakespeare.*

The *stinking ferret*, the fulmar, and the like creatures, live upon the face and within the bowels of the earth. *Walton's Angler.*

FIXTUL. *adj.* [fit and full.] Varied by paroxysms; disordered by change of maladies.

Duncan is in his grave; *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

FIXTLY. *adv.* [from fit.]

1. Properly; justly; reasonably.

Mutinous parts
That envied his receipt, even so most fitly
As you malign our senators. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

Where a man cannot fitly play his own part, if he have not a friend, he may quit the stage. *Bacon, Essay 28.*

I cannot *stinking ferret* compare marriage than to a lottery; for, in both, he that ventures may succeed, and may miss; and if he draw a prize, he hath a rich return of his venture: but in both lotteries there lie pretty store of blanks for every prize. *Boyle.*

The whole of our duty may be expressed most fitly by departing from evil. *Tillot's Sermons.*

An animal, in order to be moveable, must be flexible; and therefore is *stinking ferret* made of separate and small solid parts, replete with proper fluids. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

2. Commodiously; meetly.

To take a latitude,
Sun or stars are *stinking ferret* view'd
At their brightest; but to conclude
Of longitudes, what other way have we
But to mark when, and where the dark eclipses be. *Donne.*

FIXTNESS. *n. f.* [from fit.]

1. Propriety; meetness; justness; reasonableness.

In things the *stinking ferret*; whereof is not of itself apparent, nor easy to be made sufficiently manifest unto all, yet the judgment of antiquity, concurring with that which is received, may induce them to think it not unfit. *Hooker, b. v. f. 7.*

The queen being absent, 'tis a needful *stinking ferret*
That we adjourn this court. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

Wer't my *stinking ferret*
To let these hands obey my boiling blood,
They're apt enough to dislocate and tear
Thy flesh and bones. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

2. Convenience; commodity; the state of being fit.

Nor time nor place
Did then cohere, and yet you would make both:
They've made themselves, and that their *stinking ferret* now
Does unmake you. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*

FIXTMENT. *n. f.* [from fit.] Something adapted to a particular purpose.

Poor beseeching: 'twas a *stinking ferret* for
The purpose I then follow'd. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*

FIXTTER. *n. f.* [from fit.]

1. The person or thing that confers fitness for any thing.

Sowing the sandy gravelly land in Devonshire and Cornwall with French furze-seed, they reckon a great improver of their land, and a *stinking ferret* of it for corn. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

2. [from *stetta*, Italian: *stetzen*, German.] A small piece: as, to cut into *stettes*. *Skinner.*

FITZ. *n. f.* [Norman, from *fitz*, a son, Fr.] A son. Only used in law and genealogy: as *Fitzherbert*, the son of Herbert; *Fitzthomas*, the son of Thomas; *Fitzroy*, the son of the king. It is commonly used of illegitimate children.

FIVE. *adj.* [five, Saxon.] Four and one; half of ten.

And five of them were wife, and five were foolish. *Mat.*

No person, no incident, but must be of use to carry on the main design: all things else are like five fingers to the hand, where nature, which is superfluous in nothing, can do her work with five. *Dryden's Dufresnoy.*

Five herds, five bleating flocks, his pastures fill'd;
His lands a hundred yoke of oxen till'd. *Dryden's Æn.*

Our British youth lose their figure by that time they are five and twenty. *Adison's Guardian, N^o. 111.*

FIVELEAVED GRASS. *n. f.* Cinquefoil; a species of clover.

FIVES. *n. f.*

1. A kind of play with a bowl.

2. A disease of horses.

His horse sped with spavins rayed with the yellows, past cure of the *fives*, and stark spoiled with the flaggers. *Shakespeare.*

TO FIX. *v. a.* [fixer, French; fixus, Latin.]

1. To make fast, firm, or stable.

Hell heard the unsufferable noise, hell saw
Heav'n ruining from heav'n, and would have fled
Affrighted, but that fate had fix'd too deep
Her dark foundations, and too fast had bound. *Milt. P. L.*

2. To settle; to establish invariably.

Brightest scorch! tell
In which of all these orbs hath man

FIX

His fixed seat, or fixed seat hath none,
But all these shining orbs his choice to dwell! *Milt. P. L.*

One loves fixed laws, and the other arbitrary power. *Temple.*

When custom hath fixed his eating to certain stated periods, his stomach will expect victuals at the usual hour. *Locke.*

3. To direct without variation.

Why are thine eyes fix'd to the fullen earth,
Gazing at that which seems to dim thy fight! *Shak. H. VI.*

Thus while the Trojan prince employs his eyes,
Fix'd on the walls with wonder and surprize. *Dryden's Æn.*

4. To deprive of volatility.

We pronounce concerning gold, that it is fixed. *Locke.*

5. To pierce; to transfix. A sense purely Latin.

While from the raging sword he vainly flies,
A bow of steel shall fix his trembling thighs. *Sandys.*

6. To withhold from motion.

TO FIX. *v. n.*

1. To settle the opinion; to determine the resolution.

If we would be happy, we must fix upon some foundation that can never deceive us. *L'Estrange.*

He made himself their prey,
T' impose on their belief and Troy betray;
Fix'd on his aim, and obstinately bent
To die undaunted, or to circumvent. *Dryden's Æn.*

Here hope began to dawn; resolv'd to try,
She fix'd on this her utmost remedy,
Death was behind; but hard it was to die. *Dryden.*

In most bodies, not propagated by feed, it is the colour we must fix on, and are most led by. *Locke.*

2. To rest; to cease to wander.

Your kindness banishes your fear,
Resolv'd to fix for ever here. *Wallar.*

3. To lose volatility, so as to be malleable.

In the midst of molten lead, when it beginneth to congeal, make a little dent, and put quicksilver, wrapped in a piece of linen, in that hole, and the quicksilver will fix and run no more, and endure the hammer. *Bacon's Natural History.*

FIXATION. *n. f.* [French.]

1. Stability; firmness; steadiness.

Your fixation in matters of religion will not be more necessary for your soul's than your kingdom's peace. *King Charles.*

2. Residence in a certain place.

To light, created in the first day, God gave no proper place or fixation. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

3. Confinement; forbearance of excursion.

They are subject to errors from a narrowness of soul, a fixation and confinement of thought to a few objects. *Watts.*

4. Want of volatility; destruction of volatility.

Upon the compound body three things are chiefly to be observed; the colour, the fragility or pliancy, and the volatility or fixation, compared with the simple bodies. *Bacon.*

It is more difficult to make gold of other metals less ponderous and less material, than, *via versa*, to make silver of lead or quicksilver, both which are more ponderous than silver; so that they need rather a degree of fixation than any condensation. *Bacon's Natural History.*

5. Reduction from fluidity to firmness.

Salt dissolved, upon a fixation returns to its affected cubes. *Glauber. Scept. c. 7.*

FIXEDLY. *adv.* [from fixed.] Certainly; firmly; in a manner settled and established.

If we pretend that the distinction of species, or sorts, is fixedly established by the real and secret constitutions of things. *Locke.*

FIXEDNESS. *n. f.* [from fixed.]

1. Stability; firmness.

2. Want or loss of volatility.

Fixedness, or a power to remain in the fire unconsumed, is an idea that always accompanies our complex idea signified by the word gold. *Locke.*

3. Solidity; coherence of parts.

All matter is either fluid or solid, to comprehend all the middle degrees between extreme fixedness and coherency, and the most rapid intestine motion of the particles of bodies. *Bentley's Sermon.*

4. Steadiness; settled opinion or resolution.

A fixedness in religion will not give my conscience leave to consent to innovations. *King Charles.*

FIXIDITY. *n. f.* [from fixed.] Coherence of parts, opposed to volatility.

A word of Boyle.

Bodies mingled by the fire are differing as to fixidity and volatility, and yet are so combined by the first operation of the fire, that itself does scarce afterwards separate them. *Boyle.*

FIXITV. *n. f.* [fixit, French.] Coherence of parts, opposed to volatility.

And are not the sun and fixed stars great earths vehemently hot, whose heat is conserved by the greatness of the bodies, and the mutual action and reaction between them, and the light which they emit, and whose parts are kept from fuming away, not only by their fixity, but also by the vast weight and density of the atmospheres incumbent upon them? *Newt. Opt.*

FLA

FLA. *n. f.* [from fix.]

1. Position.

The fixure of her eye hath motion in't,
As we were mock'd with art. *Shakespeare. Winter's Tale.*

2. Stable pressure.

The firm fixure of thy foot would give an excellent motion to thy gait. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*

3. Firmness; stable state.

Frights, changes, horrors,
Divert and crack, rend and deracinate
The unity and married calm of states
Quite from their fixure. *Shakespeare's Troil. and Cressida.*

FLA'G. *n. f.* A kind of dart or harpoon with which seamen strike fish.

FLA'BBY. *adj.* [flaccidus, Latin.] Soft; not firm; easily shaking or yielding to the touch.

Paleness, a weak pulse, palpitations of the heart, flabby and black flesh, are symptoms of weak fibres. *Arbutnot.*

Pulls out the rags contriv'd to prop
Her flabby dugs, and down they drop. *Swift.*

FLA'BILE. *adj.* [flabilis, Latin.] Blown about by the wind; subject to be blown.

FLA'CCID. *adj.* [flaccidus, Latin.] Weak; limber; not stiff; lax; not tense.

The bowing and inclining the head is found in the great flower of the sun: the cause I take to be is, that the part against which the sun beate waxeth more faint and flaccid in the stalk, and thereby less able to support the flower. *Bacon.*

They whose muscles are weak or flaccid, are unapt to pronounce the letter r. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*

The furgeon ought to vary the diet as he finds the fibres are too flaccid and produce funguses, or as they harden and produce callousities. *Arbutnot on Diet.*

FLA'CCIDITY. *n. f.* [from flaccid.] Laxity; limberness; want of tension; want of stiffness.

There is neither fluxion nor pain, but flaccidity joined with insensibility. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

TO FLAG. *v. n.* [flaggeren, Dutch; pleogan, Saxon, to fly.]

1. To hang loose without stiffness or tension.

Beds of cotton wool hung up between two trees, not far from the ground; in the which, flagging down in the middle, men, wives and children lie together. *Abbot.*

The jades
That drag the tragick melancholy night,
Who with their drowly, slow, and flagging wings
Clip dead men's graves. *Shakespeare's Henry VI.*

It keeps those slender aerial bodies separated and stretched out, which otherwise, by reason of their flexibleness and weight, would flag or curl. *Boyle's Spring of the Air.*

Like a fiery meteor funk the sun,
The promise of a storm; the shifting gales
Forfake by fits, and fill the flagging sails. *Dryden.*

2. To grow spiritless or dejected.

My flagging soul flies under her own pitch,
Like fowl in air too damp, and lags along
As if he were a body in a body:
My senses too are dull and stupidly'd,
Their edge rebated: sure some ill approaches. *Dryd. D. Seb.*

The pleasures of the town begin to flag and grow languid, giving way daily to cruel inroads from the spleen. *Swift.*

3. To grow feeble; to lose vigour.

Juice in language is somewhat less than blood; for if the words be but becoming and signifying, and the sense gentle, there is juice: but where that wanteth, the language is thin, flagging, poor, starved, scarce covering the bone, and shews like stones in a sack: some men, to avoid redundancy, run into that; and while they strive to hinder ill blood or juice, they lose their good. *Ben. Johnson's Discoveries.*

His stomach will expect victuals at the usual hour, and grow peevish if he passes it; either fretting itself into a troublesome excess, or flagging into a downright want of appetite. *Locke.*

There must be a noble train of actions to preserve his fame in life and motion; for, when it is once at a stand, it naturally flags and languishes. *Adison's Spectator, N^o. 256.*

If on sublimer wings of love and praise,
My love above the starry vault I raise,
Lur'd by some vain conceit of pride or lust,
I flag, I drop, and flutter in the dust. *Arbutnot.*

He sees a spirit hath been raised against him, and he only watches 'till it begins to flag: he goes about watching when to devour us. *Swift.*

TO FLAG. *v. a.*

1. To let fall; to suffer to droop.

Take heed, my dear, youth flies apace;
As well as Cupid, Time is blind:
Soon must those glories of thy face
The fate of vulgar beauty find:
The thousand loves, that arm thy potent eye,
Must drop their quivers, flag their wings, and die. *Prior.*

2. [From flag, a species of stone.] To lay with broad stone.

The sides and floor are all flagged with excellent marble. *Sandys.*

FLA

A white stone used for flagging floors. *Woodward on Fossils.*

FLAG. *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A water plant with a broad bladed leaf and yellow flower, so called from its motion in the wind.

She took an ark of bulrushes; and laid it in the flags by the river's brink. *Ex. ii. 3.*

Can bulrushes but by the river grow?
Can flags there flourish where no waters flow. *Sandys.*

There be divers fishes that cast their spawn on flags or stones. *Walton's Angler.*

Cut flag roots, and the roots of other weeds. *Mortimer.*

2. The colours or ensign of a ship or land forces, by which signals are made at sea, or regiments are distinguished in the field.

These flags of France that are advanced here,
Before the eye and prospect of your town,
Have hither march'd to your endamage. *Shak. K. J. bn.*

He hangs out as many flags as he decrieth vessels; square, if ships; if gallees, pendants. *Sandys's Travels.*

Let him be girt
With all the grisly legions that troop
Under the footy flag of Acheron,
Harpies and hydras, or all the monstrous forms
Twixt Africa and Inde, I'll find him cut,
And force him to restore his purchase back,
Or drag him by the curls to a foul death. *Milton.*

The French and Spaniard, when your flags appear,
Forget their hatred, and consent to fear. *Waller.*

The interpretation of that article about the flag is a ground at pleasure for opening a war. *Temple.*

In either flag the golden serpents bear;
Erecting crests alike, like volumes rear,
And mingle friendly hissings in the air. *Dryden's Avenge.*

Then they, whose mothers, frantick with their fear,
In woods and wilds the flags of Bacchus bear,
And lead his dances with dishevell'd hair. *Dryden's Æn.*

3. A species of stone used for smooth pavements. [jaches, old French]

Part of two flags striated, but deeper on one side than the other. *Woodward on Fossils.*

Flagstone will not split, as slate does, being found formed into flags, or thin plates, which are no other than so many strata. *Woodward's Met. Foss.*

FLAG-BROOM. *n. f.* [from flag and broom.] A broom for sweeping flags or pavements, commonly made of birch-twigs, or of the leaves of the dwarf palm, imported from Spain.

FLAG-OFFICER. *n. f.* [flag and officer.] A commander of a squadron.

Her grandfather was a flag-officer. *Adison's Spectator.*

FLAG-SHIP. *n. f.* [flag and ship.] The ship in which the commander of a fleet is.

FLAG-WORM. *n. f.* [flag and worm.] A grub bred in watry places among flags or sedge.

He will in the three hot months bite at a flag-worm, or a green gentle. *Walton's Angler.*

FLA'GELET. *n. f.* [flageolet, French.] A small flute; a small instrument of wind music.

Play us a lesson on your flagelet. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

FLAGELLATION. *n. f.* [from flagello, Latin.] The use of the scourge.

By Bridewell all descend,
As morning pray'r and flagellation end. *Garth's Dispens.*

FLAGGINESS. *n. f.* [from flaggy.] Laxity; limberness; want of tension.

FLAGGY. *adj.* [from flag.]

1. Weak; lax; limber; not stiff; not tense.

His flaggy wings, when forth he did display,
Were like two sails, in which the hollow wind
Is gather'd full, and worketh speedy way. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

That basking in the sun thy bees may lye,
And resting there, their flaggy pinions dry. *Dryden's Virgil.*

2. Weak in taste; insipid.

Graft an apple-cion upon the stock of a colewort, and it will bear a great flaggy apple. *Bacon's Natural History.*

FLAGITIOUS. *adj.* [from flagitius, Latin.] Wicked; villainous; atrocious.

No villany or flagitious action was ever yet committed, but, upon a due enquiry into the causes of it, it will be found that a lye was first or last the principal engine to effect it. *South.*

There's no working upon a flagitious and perverse nature by kindness and discipline. *L'Estrange.*

First, those flagitious times,
Pregnant with unknown crimes,
Conspire to violate the nuptial bed. *Roscommon.*

Perjury is a crime of so flagitious a nature, we cannot be too careful in avoiding every approach towards it. *Adison.*

But if in noble minds some dregs remain,
Not yet purg'd off, of spleen and sour disdain,
Discharge that rage on more provoking crimes,
Nor fear a dearth in these flagitious times. *Pope.*